For immediate release

March 15, 2012

Retrofitting fixtures with WaterSense-labeled products can save water

MWRD, U.S. EPA offer water conservation tips during Fix a Leak Week March 12 – March 18

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and other water-oriented agencies to promote Fix a Leak Week March 12 through March 18.

The week was designed to remind every resident across the city, state and country to examine household fixtures and irrigation systems to check for leaks.

According to the U.S. EPA, leaks account for approximately 10,000 gallons of water wasted per home each year. A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year. A home with WaterSense-labeled toilets could use that water to flush for six months.

Leaking faucets can be reduced by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and tear and replacing them if necessary. If a faucet needs to be replaced, look for specially-marked products with the US EPA WaterSense label.

A showerhead leaking at 10 drips per minute wastes more than 500 gallons per year. This is enough water to wash 60 loads of dishes in your dishwasher. Most leaky showerheads can be fixed by ensuring a tight connection using pipe tape and a wrench.

"It just takes a few minutes to prevent water waste," said MWRD Executive Director David St. Pierre. "These actions also have the potential to reduce neighborhood flooding and basement backups."

More information about the MWRD can be found at www.mwrd.org or by following the MWRD at www.facebook.com/metropolitanwaterreclamationdistrict and www.twitter.com/mwrdgc.

More information about Fix a Leak Week can be found at www.epa.gov/watersense/our_water/fix_a_leak.html.

Our water environment...Take it personally.

# # #